



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,097	03/31/2004	Adam Iredell Hayden	1671-0297	7290

28078 7590 10/25/2007
MAGINOT, MOORE & BECK, LLP
CHASE TOWER
111 MONUMENT CIRCLE
SUITE 3250
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER

SCHILLINGER, ANN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3774

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

10/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/814,097	Applicant(s) HAYDEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Ann Schillinger	Art Unit 3774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-9, 11, 12, 15-30 and 32-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10, 13, 14 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burkinshaw (US Pat. No. 6,602,292). Burkinshaw discloses the following of claim 1: a patellar prosthesis comprising: a first subcomponent (34); a boss (80) operably connected to the first subcomponent (see Figure 7); and a second subcomponent (32, 44) movably connected to the first subcomponent with the boss (col. 4, lines 43-61; col. 5, lines 25-46), the second subcomponent comprising, a first side (60), the first side having (i) a channel therein (68), (ii) a boss retaining region (70) operable to retain the boss within the channel when the boss is inserted into the channel (col. 5, lines 11-13), and (iii) a boss assembly region (44) operable to facilitate the insertion of the boss into the channel. Please note that the examiner is interpreting the term “boss” according to its dictionary definition, which is “a protuberant part or body” (boss. Dictionary.com. Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary. Merriam-Webster, Inc. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/boss> (accessed: October 20, 2007)).

Art Unit: 3774

Burkinshaw discloses the following of claim 2: the patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the first subcomponent comprises a base (64) and wherein the second subcomponent comprises an articulating subcomponent (78).

Burkinshaw discloses the following of claim 3: the patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein: the boss comprises a stem (82) and a head (84) having a width (see Figure 7); the channel has a first side and a second side, the second side spaced apart from the first side by a first distance (see Figure 6); and the boss retaining region comprises a lip, a first section having width and a second section having a width (see element 70 in Figure 5), the first section of the lip located on the first side of the channel and the second section of the lip located on the second side of the channel, the width of the head being greater than the first distance of the channel minus the width of the first section of the lip and minus the width of the second section of the lip (see Figures 5-7).

Burkinshaw discloses the limitations of claim 13 as shown in Figure 1.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Whiteside et al. (US Pat. No. 5,019,104). Whiteside et al. discloses the following of claim 31: a patellar replacement component base comprising: a generally planar bone contacting surface (12) lying in a first plane; a dome shaped articulating component contact surface (15) generally opposite the bone contacting surface (see Figure 2); and a boss (16) having a stem (straight portion before element 17) extending from the dome shaped articulating component contact surface along a line, the line of the stem intersecting the bone contacting surface plane at an angle of other than 90 degrees (see Figure 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkinshaw. Burkinshaw discloses the use of a spin stop (56), receiving chamber (52), and load region (54). However, the parts of Burkinshaw are in positions that are reversed to those claimed by the Applicant. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to switch the parts of the first and the second subcomponents, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Einstein*, 8 USPQ 167.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 10, 13, 14, and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann Schillinger whose telephone number is (571) 272-6652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3774

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ann Schillinger
October 20, 2007

A. Stewart
ALVIN J. STEWART
PRIMARY EXAMINER